

V. REMARKS

Entry of the Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the Amendment: a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; b) does not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration because the Amendment amplifies issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; and c) places the application in better form for appeal, should an Appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. The amendments to the subject claims do not incorporate any new subject matter into the claims. Thus, entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 (presumptively claims 1, 3, 5, 7 and 8 because claims 2, 4 and 6 have been canceled) are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Hermann (U.S. Patent No. 3,839,209) in view of United Lab Equipment, Inc. and Wikipedia. Claims 9 and 11-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Hermann in view of United Lab Equipment, Inc., Wikipedia and Shimotomai (U.S. Patent No. 5,868,555). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Examiner alleges that Hermann (USP3,839,209) discloses a sliding layer composition comprising an epoxy resin, mixtures of bismuth powder and metal (lead) powder and a solid lubricant.

However, Hermann does not disclose or suggest that copper-based alloy powder or aluminum-based alloy powder, which is superior in thermal conductivity, is mixed with a thermosetting resin to prevent heat accumulation in a sliding layer as in the claimed invention.

The Examiner also alleges that since Hermann states that the alloy may be selected from at least one member of the group consisting of Pb-Bi, Pb-Sn, Bi-Sn, Pb-Bi-Sn, Pb-Sn-Sb, Pb-Sn-Pb-Cu, Pb-Sn-Cu-Cd or Pb-Sn-Sb-Cu-Ni (see claim 7), teaches that the copper based alloy disclosed in Hermann would also be superior in thermal conductivity.

It is respectfully submitted that this allegation *is* entirely groundless because Hermann does not teach use of copper as a base metal nor does not mention thermal conductivity of a copper based alloy.

In the present invention, the copper alloy containing no lead or bismuth and the aluminum-based alloy containing no lead or bismuth are mixed with the solid lubricant. As can be seen from Whikipedia hereto attached, Pb and Bi are low in thermal conductivity (35.3 and 7.97 W/m•K respectively) while Al and Cu are high in thermal conductivity (237 and 401 W/m•K respectively). Thus, the copper alloy containing no lead or bismuth and the aluminum-based alloy containing no lead or bismuth used in the present invention are superior in thermal conductivity to the alloy containing Pb or Bi used in Hermann.

The other cited references merely utilize physical data for calculating volumetric ratio of resin to metal and irrelevant to the present invention.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention is an obvious from the prior art references and the outstanding rejection should be withdrawn.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to submit those other reasons and to argue for the patentability of claims not explicitly addressed herein in future papers.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

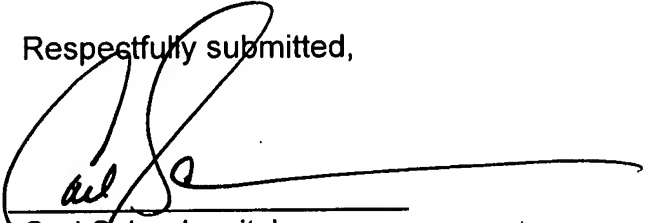
Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the

Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 3, 2007

By:


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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal
 Wikipedia - Bismuth (pages 1-2)
 Wikipedia - Lead (pages 1-2)
 Wikipedia - Copper (pages 1-2)
 Wikipedia - Aluminum (pages 1-2)

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